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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

AUG 1 1980

TO : The Deputy Secretary

FROM: ARA - William G. Bowdler

Letter of Reply to Amnesty International

Martin Ennals, Secretary General of Amnesty International, wrote to you on February 29 to express concern about possible U.S. security assistance to the Government of El Salvador and the activities of a now disbanded paramilitary organization called ORDEN. Our delayed response resulted from the letter's being misplaced. In the meantime Amnesty's Chairman, Jose Zalaquett, has written a letter to Secretary Muskie on June 24 which raises the same questions.

The reply for your signature at Tab 1 will answer both letters and explains the rationale for U.S. policy on security assistance for El Salvador and provides our understanding of the present status of ORDEN. We also will inform Amnesty that further briefings on El Salvador will be offered by ARA to their Washington representative.

Recommendation:

That you sign the reply at Tab 1. Letter Revised in D

Attachments

1. Lette[illegible]. Ennals
2. Ennal[illegible] Letter
3. Zalaquett's Letter

Drafted:ARA/CEN:RBrown
7/31/80 ext. 24975

Cleared:HA:RJacobs

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDS/IR

REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE [illegible]